

**POISONING—A Guide to Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment**—Second Edition, W. F. von Oettingen, M.D., Ph.D., National Institutes of Health, U. S. Public Health Service; and U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. W. B. Saunders Company, 1958. 627 pages, \$12.50.

In this second edition new descriptions have been added, and old ones refined, but the general character of the book is the same. It is a good presentation of poisoning and poisons, designed primarily for use by medical practitioners.

After a few pages of introductory advice there is a large section on the diagnosis of poisoning. The first portion of this section describes various symptoms and signs and under each lists responsible poisons. Thus "corrosion of the glottis" is described generally as following the aspiration of caustic alkali or acids, or fumes and mists, and specifically the following: acetic acid (conc.), chromates, cresol, formic acid, lye, mercuric chloride, nitric acid, permanganates, phenol, sulfuric acid and zinc chloride. A second portion treats biochemical changes similarly, and an extremely valuable portion lists laboratory tests for the identification of poisons in blood or urine.

The next section deals in a little over 20 pages with general management. Specific ways of removing poisons and treating nausea, pain, coma and the like are described.

The final section on the individual poisons, almost 400 pages, constitutes the major portion of the book. Here are listed poisons from *Abrus precatorius*, an ornamental plant, and absinthe to zinc sulfate and *Zygadenus venenosus*, another plant. As a random example, barracuda poisoning will illustrate the format of the individual monographs. Barracuda is described as generally edible but to have caused repeated food poisoning. Toxicity appears to be seasonal but the cause is not known. Symptoms appear after a few hours and include metallic taste, nausea, diarrhea, strange paresthesias and pruritis, and finally shock. There may be visual disturbances and difficulty in swallowing. Treatment is then considered in a few lines (no specific measures) and there are references to the literature.

This book should be compared with two other prominent and valuable books on poisoning. That by Gleason, Gosselin and Hodge is larger and more encyclopedic. The rarest and most mysterious poisonings and the greatest list of trade names will be found in this classic reference work. Still it is admirably arranged and serves physicians well. The other book, by Dreisbach, has the advantage of having an amazingly complete coverage of toxicology packed into its pocket size. The Dreisbach is less expensive and also has some advantages in organization. For instance, one looks in vain for the word insecticide in the index or as an individual monograph in von Oettingen, while this leads to a useful section in Dreisbach, and incidentally to a more satisfactory text if used in teaching. The reader is fortunate in having these extremes of choice in good, modern toxicologies.

WINDSOR CUTTING, M.D.

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**CALLANDER'S SURGICAL ANATOMY**—Fourth Edition—Barry J. Anson, M.A., Ph.D., (Med. Sc.); Chairman, Department of Anatomy, and Robert Laughlin Rea, Professor, Northwestern University Medical School, and Member of the Staff, Passavant Memorial Hospital; and Walter G. Maddock, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S.; Edward S. Elcock, Professor of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School, and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1958. 1157 pages, \$21.00.

A comparison of the two editions, that of 1952, the third edition, and the present fourth edition is of value. To the publisher's credit is the new type which although about the same size is more easily read than that of the third edition. Although the titles to the subdivisions and those heading

the topics and the surgical discussions are set in black face type which makes the finding of the sections easier for the reader. The fourth edition has 1047 illustrations, 118 more than the third edition. The frontispiece which diagrams the autonomic nervous system is in color. A new feature of the fourth edition is its dedication to the author's former teachers, namely, Frederic Thomas Lewis, Ph.D., of Harvard and Fredrick A. Collier of Michigan. In this reviewer's opinion the Callander's Surgical Anatomy has been the best of all the surgical anatomy texts. The authors of the fourth edition have carried on by retaining the fundamental architecture of the earlier editions and only modifying the constituent elements wherever amplified knowledge of structure or improved technical procedures called for closer adaptation to present-day use of the book. For instance the operation of stapes mobilization has been described since the last edition so a section has been added on the detailed anatomy of the stapes plus an illustration from Schambaugh's "Surgery of the Ear" (a text book in preparation) detailing the technique of stapes mobilization.

An improvement of the fourth edition over the third can be seen in the section on radical operation for carcinoma of the breast. There are anatomical studies outlining the retro-sternal glands which have been included in the supra-radical dissections being done as a routine in some parts of the country. Another improvement in this section is made by including all the illustrations relating to radical dissections in that section of the treatise rather than carrying them on through the sections relating to diaphragm and other parts of the anatomy.

On the whole it can be said that the fourth edition makes a good book better and brings the knowledge up to date in a most satisfactory manner. Callander's Surgical Anatomy is recommended not only for the student and general surgeon, but for the teacher who wishes to recommend a work where his student can get an accurate picture of required surgical anatomy in a form easily absorbed and remembered. The wealth of good illustrations in the fourth edition helps immensely with this problem.

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**ADVANCES IN ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY**—Edited by Charles E. Kossmann, B.S., M.D., Med. Sc.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine, New York University College of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York, 1958. 280 pages, \$9.75.

Kossmann's volume on *Advances in Electrocardiography* is the outgrowth of a course that Dr. Kossmann and his associates have given at New York University College of Medicine for the past ten years. Because of the general interest and the enthusiastic acceptance by physicians who wanted an advanced course in electrocardiography, Dr. Kossmann and his associates prepared the current volume. It is fairly technical and presents the electrophysiologic view of concepts underlying modern electrocardiography. As such it will be of great interest to the physician who wishes to know more than standard patterns of disease.

The material covered in the book includes the bioelectrics of the myocardial cell, a discussion of the action potential of cardiac factors and the Dipole theory; and there are also a variety of chapters devoted to the spread and excitation and normal and abnormal recovery. There are detailed chapters on conduction defects, injury patterns, hypertrophy, and congenital heart disease. Arrhythmias are discussed to a lesser degree, but from a physiologic standpoint. Each chapter has an excellent bibliography which is very helpful.

The book can be highly recommended for those individuals who wish to understand more about the fundamental aspects of electrocardiography. It is well illustrated, excellently written, and amply documented with references.